## rosevillept @

Print Date: Thursday, January 11, 2007

Last modified: Thursday, January 11, 2007 12:35 PM PST

## Going up

she said.

By: Nathan Donato-Weinstein, The Press-Tribune As 2006 turned to 2007, Roseville remained a city under construction.

While new housing tracts continue to sprout up, particularly on the city's western side, they're not the only developments changing the face of Roseville.

Several long-awaited civic and commercial construction projects are due for completion in the new year.

Here's a look at five key non-residential developments reaching completion that will mold the city for years to come.

Roseville Electric officials promise greater rate stability with the completion of the Roseville Energy Park, a 160-megawatt power plant located on 12 acres near the Pleasant Grove Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Staff is projected to flip the "on" switch in late summer, spokesperson Vonette McCauley said. That's a few months later than the spring 2007 opening officials were aiming for, due to a particularly bad winter last year,



ANDREW NIXON/THE PRESS-TRIBUNE Brian Genobaga paints a pillar under construction inside the Mahany library.

"We' re pretty close to the end, but we have quite a lot of work to do and we're making good progress," McCauley said.

At peak capacity, the \$203 million, natural gas-fired plant will provide about 40 percent of the city's power needs, she added.

The city embarked upon the project following the state's energy crisis in 2000. Officials say producing power locally will help guard against future fluctuations in the volatile energy market.

Mark Wolinski, administrative analyst for the city of Roseville, said mid-April is targeted for a grand opening of the Downtown Parking Garage.

The four-story garage on Vernon Street promises 550 additional parking spaces - a dramatic increase from the approximately 160 spaces that currently line the street - as well as a new home for Roseville Arts! dubbed the Blue Line Gallery.

"All the deck pours are completed, the only thing we need to finish out as far as concrete is concerned are the column ends and the vehicle restraint walls," Wolinski said.

Then, work will begin on stairwells, railings and electrical work. Efforts will also accelerate on the 4,000-square-foot, ground-level gallery space, he said.

The project, which officials are calling a key component to downtown revitalization efforts, broke ground in Sept. 2005. Since then, it's seen costs rise to \$8.3 million from an initial \$6 million estimate, as construction materials prices have skyrocketed, Wolinski said.

The garage isn't the only project giving downtown a new look and feel. The steel skeleton of the The Rock of Roseville's new home is rising at the Riverside Boulevard edge of Vernon Street.

The approximately \$6.5 million first phase broke ground in July 2006 and is about 45 percent competed, project manager John Vacarro said.

When finished by August, the two-story church complex will house a multipurpose room for two services, themed rooms for children's ministries and conference space, adding up to about 21,500 square feet.

Steel framing and flooring is up, and will undergo quite a transformation by the time all is said and done: The edifice of the Vernon Street School, on whose former site the project stands, will be referenced when the church's façade goes up.

"We're very excited," Vacarro said. "It's one thing to be excited about a building, but what it will allow us to do and affect people's lives, that's what we're ultimately excited about."

The long-awaited Mahany Library complex is scheduled for completion by November, city officials said.

Assistant Central Services Director Tom Goldie said the multi-use facility, located at Mahany Regional Park next to the Roseville Sports Center, is about 50 percent complete.

"Obviously the structure's been put up, we're doing roofing right now," he said. "The interior framing's done and we're getting ready for sheetrock, getting ready for the glazing ... then we start the interior finishes."

While ground was broken in late fall 2005, design changes meant construction did not begin in earnest until March of 2006, pushing back earlier completion estimates.

When finished, the building will house not only a branch library, but also a "Utility Education Center," the city's public access television station, the fire department's Emergency Operations Center, a data backup facility and more. The project weighs in at about \$12-13 million, Goldie said.

Roseville residents will have yet another option to shop for electronics gear when a Fry's Electronics opens at 180 North Sunrise Ave. in a few months.

Company spokesperson Manuel Valerio said the approximately 140,000-square-foot site, number 34 for the San Jose-based retailer, is about three to four months away from a grand opening, even though the shell is nearly completed.

"There's a lot for us to do to get a store that size ready for opening," he said, noting hiring and training employees, as well as stocking shelves.

Privately held Fry's does not release construction cost figures, Valerio said.